WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1.   A method for routing electronic messages, the method comprising:

    routing an electronic message directed to an intended recipient to a supervisory recipient; and

    enabling the electronic message to be screened by the supervisory recipient.

2.   The method of claim 1 wherein routing the electronic message includes notifying the intended recipient that the electronic message has been routed to the supervisory recipient.

3.   The method of claim 1 wherein routing the electronic message does not include notifying the intended recipient that the electronic message has been routed to the supervisory recipient.

4.   The method of claim 1 wherein enabling the electronic message to be screened further comprises:

    allowing the supervisory recipient to approve or reject the electronic message, and

    forwarding the approved electronic message to the intended recipient.

5.   The method of claim 4 wherein enabling the electronic message to be screened further comprises:

    comparing an electronic address of a sender of the electronic message to at least one sender list, and

    approving or rejecting the electronic message based on a result of the comparison.

6.   The method of claim 5 wherein the at least one sender list includes a list of approved senders such that comparing the electronic address comprises comparing the electronic address of the sender to the list of approved senders.

7.   The method of claim 5 wherein the at least one sender list includes a list of blocked senders such that comparing the electronic address comprises comparing the electronic address of the sender to the list of blocked senders.

1   8.   The method of claim 1 further comprising establishing the supervisory

2   . recipient for the intended recipient.

1   9.   The method of claim 8 wherein the intended recipient is a minor child and the

2   supervisory recipient is a guardian for the minor child such that establishing the supervisory

3   recipient includes establishing the guardian as the supervisory recipient for the minor child.

1   10.   The method of claim 1 wherein the intended recipient and the supervisory

2   recipient have related accounts within an electronic mail service such that routing the

3   electronic message includes routing the electronic message to an account for the supervisory

4   recipient that is related to an account for the intended recipient.

1   11.   The method of claim 10 wherein the intended recipient and the supervisory

2   recipient have unique screen names comprising a single Internet service provider account.

1   12.   The method of claim 1 wherein the intended recipient and the supervisory

2   recipient have unrelated accounts such that routing the electronic message includes routing

3   the electronic message to the supervisory recipient account unrelated to the intended recipient

4   account.

1   13.   The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic message comprises an email

2   message such that routing the electronic message includes routing the email message.

1   14.   The method of claim 1 wherein the electronic message comprises an instant

2   message such that routing the electronic message includes routing the instant message.

1   15.   The method of claim 1, wherein the electronic message comprises a chat room

2   message such that the routing includes routing the chat room message.

1   16.   A system for routing electronic messages, the system comprising:

2   a routing software module that sends to a supervisory recipient an electronic message

3   that would otherwise be routed to an intended recipient;

4   a screening software module that allows the electronic message to be screened by the

5   supervisory recipient and allow the supervisory recipient to approve or reject the electronic

6   message; and

7   a forwarding software module that forwards the electronic message to the intended

8   recipient if approved by the supervisory recipient.

1   17.   The system of claim 16 wherein the routing software module notifies the

2   intended recipient that the electronic message has been routed to the supervisory recipient.

1   18.   The system of claim 16 wherein the routing software module does not notify

2   the intended recipient that the electronic message has been routed to the supervisory

3   recipient.

1   19.   The system of claim 16, wherein the screening software module comprises:

2   a first software module that compares an electronic address of a sender of the

3   electronic message to at least one sender list, and

4   a second software module that approves or rejects the electronic message based on a

5   result of the comparison.

1   20.   The system of claim 19 wherein the at least one sender list includes a list of

2   approved senders.

1   21.   The system of claim 19 wherein the at least one sender list includes a list of

2   blocked senders.

1   22.   The system of claim 16 further comprising a supervisor establishing software

2   module that establishes the supervisory recipient for the intended recipient.

1   23.   The system of claim 16 further comprising a software module for designating

2   a minor child as the intended recipient and for designating a guardian for the minor child as

3   the supervisory recipient.

1 24. The system of claim 16 further comprising a software module that relates

2 accounts of the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient within an electronic mail

3 service.

1 25. The system of claim 24 further comprising a software module that enables the

2 intended recipient and the supervisory recipient to have unique screen names comprising a

3 single Internet service provider account.

1 26. The system of claim 16 wherein the intended recipient and the supervisory

2 recipient have unrelated accounts.

1 27. The system of claim 16 further comprising a software module for receiving an

2 e-mail message as the electronic message.

1 28. The system of claim 16 further comprising a software module for receiving an

2 instant message as the electronic message.

1 29. The system of claim 16 further comprising a software module for receiving a

2 chat room message as the electronic message.

1 30. A computer readable medium having embodied thereon a computer program

2 for processing by a computer, the computer program comprising:

3   a first code segment that causes the computer to route to a supervisory recipient an

4 electronic message that would otherwise be routed to an intended recipient;

5   a second code segment that causes the computer to enable the electronic message to

6 be screened by the supervisory recipient and allows the supervisory recipient to approve or

7 reject the electronic message; and

8   a third code segment that causes the computer to forward the electronic message to

9 the intended recipient if approved by the supervisory recipient.

1   31.   The computer program of claim 30 wherein the first code segment causes the

2 computer to notify the intended recipient that the electronic message has been routed to the

3 supervisory recipient.

1   32.   The computer program of claim 30 wherein the first code segment does not

2 cause the computer to notify the intended recipient that the electronic message has been

3 routed to the supervisory recipient.

1   33.   The computer program of claim 30 wherein the second code segment causes

2 the computer to:

3   compare an electronic address of a sender of the electronic message to at least one

4 sender list, and

5   approve or reject the electronic message based on a result of the comparison.

1   34.   The computer program of claim 33 wherein the at least one sender list

2 includes a list of approved senders.

1   35.   The computer program of claim 33 wherein the at least one sender list

2 includes a list of blocked senders.

1   36.   The computer program of claim 30 further comprising a fourth code segment

2 that causes the computer to establish the supervisory recipient for the intended recipient.

1   37.   The computer program of claim 36 further comprising a code segment that

2 causes the computer to designate a minor child as the intended recipient a guardian for the

3 minor child as the supervisory recipient.

1   38.   The computer program of claim 30 further comprising a code segment that

2 causes the computer to relate accounts of the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient

3 within an electronic mail service.

1   39.   The computer program of claim 38 further comprising a code segment that

2   causes the computer to recognize unique screen names comprising a single Internet service

3   provider account as the intended recipient and the supervisory recipient.

1   40.   The computer program of claim 30 wherein the intended recipient and the

2   supervisory recipient have unrelated accounts.

1   41.   The computer program of claim 30 further comprising a code segment for

2   causing the computer to receive an e-mail message as the electronic message.

1   42.   The computer program of claim 30 further comprising a code segment for

2   causing the computer to receive an instant message as the electronic message.

1   43.   The computer program of claim 30 further comprising a code segment for

2   causing the computer to receive a chat room message as the electronic message.